



USAID | MACEDONIA
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2008

Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446

Cell phone: +389 (0)70 367 547

Email: bvelickovska@usaid.gov

PRESS RELEASE

USAID-funded survey reveals strong public support for EU and NATO despite pessimism over the future

The USAID Political Party Support project, implemented by the International Republican Institute (IRI), carried out a comprehensive public opinion survey measuring the level of public support of Government institutions, political leaders, political parties and key issues for Macedonian citizens. The survey revealed overwhelming support for EU and NATO membership, contrasted by an increasing number of people who are pessimistic about the overall direction of the country.

The state of Macedonia's economy remains to be the top priority for its citizens. 77 percent of the respondents cite economic issues, such as unemployment and low standards of living, as being most important for Macedonia. 92 percent of respondents believe that foreign investment is the key solution to economic problems, with "peace and stability" and "stable government" as top requirements for attracting foreign investors. The survey results can be found on <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.

The survey was conducted by the local research supplier Brima, in collaboration with an American research firm Williams and Associates of Salem, Massachusetts. The poll was based on interviews with 1108 adult Macedonians conducted in December 2007. The margin of error for this poll is ± 3 percent.

IRI works with political parties in Macedonia to enhance their ability to identify and respond to issues of concern among the electorate, and to provide citizens with increased avenues of participation. IRI utilizes public opinion polls to help political parties with issue identification and advocacy, message development, and communications and voter outreach.

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.